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Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-41 (canceled)

Claim 42 (currently amended) A system for detecting features of a tissue sample, comprising:

an optical probe; and

an accessory device for attachment to the optical probe,

wherein at least one of the probe and the accessory device includes an element for providing encoded information relating to at least one of the probe and the accessory device, wherein the element comprises a bar code for storing the encoded information.

Claim 43 (currently amended) The system of claim 42, wherein the element ~~is~~ further comprises an electrical element and the encoded information is stored therein.

Claim 44 (previously presented) The system of claim 42, further comprising an element reader for accessing the encoded information in the element.

Claim 45 (canceled)

Claim 46 (previously presented) The system of claim 42, wherein the encoded information includes identification information.

Claim 47 (previously presented) The system of claim 42, wherein the encoded information enables particular operating modes of the device.

Claim 48 (previously presented) The system of claim 43, wherein the electrical element is remotely programmable.

Claim 49 (previously presented) The system of claim 43, wherein the electrical element includes an RFID chip.

Claim 50 (previously presented) The system of claim 44, wherein the element reader further comprises a processor including a memory, and wherein the processor compares identification information encoded in the element to identification information located within the memory.

Claim 51 (previously presented) The system of claim 50, wherein the processor transmits instructions based on whether a match is found between the identification information encoded in the element and the identification information encoded in the memory.

Claim 52 (previously presented) The system of claim 51, wherein if no match is found, the identification information encoded in the element is added to the memory.

Claim 53 (previously presented) The system of claim 51, wherein the instructions include an instruction that permits the optical probe to function if no match is found.

Claim 54 (previously presented) The system of claim 51, wherein the instructions include an instruction that prevents the optical probe from functioning if no match is found.

Claim 55 (previously presented) The system of claim 50, wherein the processor controls transmission of light by the probe.

Claim 56 (previously presented) The system of claim 44, wherein the element reader is attached to the probe.

Claim 57 (previously presented) The system of claim 44, wherein the element reader is separate from the accessory device.

Claim 58 (previously presented) The system of claim 44, wherein the element reader is removably attached to the probe.

Claim 59 (previously presented) The system of claim 42, wherein the accessory device includes a flexible portion for conforming to a body space.

Claim 60 (previously presented) The system of claim 42 wherein the accessory device includes an integral lens.

Claim 61 (previously presented) The system of claim 42 wherein the accessory device includes a body and an attachment element for attaching the accessory device to the probe, the attachment element detaching from the body of the accessory device when the accessory device is removed from the probe, thereby preventing re-use of the accessory device.

Claim 62 (new) A system for detecting features of a tissue sample, comprising:

an optical probe; and

an accessory device for attachment to the optical probe,

wherein at least one of the probe and the accessory device includes an element for providing encoded information relating to at least one of the probe and the accessory device, wherein the element comprises an RFID chip for storing the encoded information.

Claim 63 (new) The system of claim 62, wherein the element is an electrical element.

Claim 64 (new) The system of claim 62, wherein the element is remotely programmable.

Claim 65 (new) The system of claim 62, wherein the encoded information includes identification information.

Claim 66 (new) The system of claim 62, further comprising an element reader for accessing the encoded information in the element.

Claim 67 (new) The system of claim 62, wherein the encoded information enables particular operating modes of the device.

Claim 68 (new) The system of claim 62, wherein the accessory device includes a flexible portion for conforming to a body space.

Claim 69 (new) The system of claim 62 wherein the accessory device includes an integral lens.

Claim 70 (new) The system of claim 62, wherein the element further comprises a bar code.

Claim 71 (new) The system of claim 62 wherein the accessory device includes a body and an attachment element for attaching the accessory device to the probe, the attachment element detaching from the body of the accessory device when the accessory device is removed from the probe, thereby preventing re-use of the accessory device.

Claim 72 (new) The system of claim 66, wherein the element reader is attached to the probe.

Claim 73 (new) The system of claim 66, wherein the element reader is separate from the accessory device.

Claim 74 (new) The system of claim 66, wherein the element reader is removably attached to the probe.

Claim 75 (new) The system of claim 66, wherein the element reader further comprises a processor including a memory, and wherein the processor compares identification information encoded in the element to identification information encoded in the memory.

Claim 76 (new) The system of claim 75, wherein the processor transmits instructions based on whether a match is found between the identification information encoded in the element and the identification information encoded in the memory.

Claim 77 (new) The system of claim 76, wherein if no match is found, the identification information encoded in the element is added to the memory.

Claim 78 (new) The system of claim 75, wherein the processor controls transmission of light by the probe.

Claim 79 (new) The system of claim 76, wherein the instructions include an instruction that permits the optical probe to function if no match is found.

Claim 80 (new) The system of claim 76, wherein the instructions include an instruction that prevents the optical probe from functioning if no match is found.